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MADRAS WAR REVIEW

A WEEKLY BULLETIN OF THE WORLD WAR

VOL: V FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1944 No. 24

We Shall Defeat Hitler on His Own Ground

In the past months we have defeated Hitler's plan for world conquest. We have recovered some of his stolen gains and in the months to come we shall recover more, and we shall meet and defeat Hitler on his own ground

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT, *in a letter to the President of the Jewish Congress on Saturday (Feb. 12)*

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[NOTE.—*The summary of news and comments contained in the* MADRAS WAR REVIEW *generally relate to events and statements published till Wednesday, every week.*]

INDIANS PLAY CONSPICUOUS PART

"The United Nations continue to dominate the situation at sea, in the Atlantic, the Mediterranean, and the North Sea. The strategic air offensive in Europe against Germany's home front not only persists, but continues to grow by day and by night. On land, Russia's remarkable offensive effort has not flagged, and the Germans are steadily being evicted from Soviet soil. Meanwhile, some of the fiercest fighting of the war is now proceeding as the key battle of the whole Italian campaign is joined. In that campaign, Indian troops have, as in North Africa, played a conspicuous part in the drive northwards.

On our own immediate front, the Allied Air Forces of Lord Louis Mountbatten's Command have greatly increased their co-ordinated offensive action in depth, weight and frequency. The Indian Air Force in addition to continuing its hazardous and important reconnaissance work, is also in the offensive action on the Arakan Front."

H.E. SIR CLAUDE AUCHINLECK, *Commander-in-Chief, in a statement in the Council of State, on Wednesday, February 16.*

◆

OFFENSIVE AGAINST JAPAN

"From our own point of view, India is now actively concerned in preparing for the day when major offensive operations will be launched by sea, land and air against our Japanese enemy. To that end, immense work, not only in the training of our sea, land and air forces, but also in the development of our ports, and transportation facilities, of our depots, and large-scale maintenance plants, is proceeding apace against the day when the full military power of the United Nations will be deployed for the ultimate, inevitable, and complete defeat of Japan."

MR. C. M. TRIVEDI, *War Secretary, India Government, in a statement in the Central Assembly on Monday, February 14.*

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THE KANEV TRAP—ANOTHER STALINGRAD

THE story of the closing of the Kanev trap in the Dnieper bend by the Red Army is one of the most interesting and intriguing episodes of Marshal Stalin's great winter offensive. It was in the first week of last month (January) that Kirovograd was captured. Thereafter, there was a momentary lull. It was the calm before the storm, during which both sides were regrouping for the next move. In the middle of January, the Germans launched a series of violent counter-attacks north-west of Kirovograd. A few days afterwards General Vatutin's right wing north of Kristinovka was attacked by the Germans from January 24 to 29. The object of Field Marshal von Manstein in launching this double counter-attack was to draw off the Soviet troops from their great offensive. But Manstein failed—he could not prevent the advance of the Red Army to bottle up the German troops in the Dnieper bend and to cut Hitler's life line in this area—the Odessa railway.

THE pressure exerted from both sides by Generals Vatutin and Koniev on the Germans in this sector has been compared by the *Red Star* to a giant wine press squeezing the Germans into smaller and still smaller space. It has also been compared to a big circle of which the eastern and north-eastern arcs were formed by the troops of Generals Vatutin and Koniev respectively. The circle itself comprised an area of about 400 square miles formed by the captured towns of Kanev, Mironovka, Boguslov, Zvenigorodka, Shopla, Tsvetkovo, Smyela, and Bobrinskaya.

He asked for it—and got it!

WHY did the Germans allow the Red Army encircle them and pull off another "Stalingrad," smaller but by no means inconsiderable? Why did they not take care not to let themselves be trapped again in great numbers on the Eastern Front? It cannot be said that they had no idea that the Russians were planning an encirclement. For, after the loss of Zaporozhe, Melitopol, and Dneproptrovsk about four months ago, Manstein must have realised that the odds were against him in fighting a holding war on the western banks of the Dnieper. Then came the capture of Kiev by the Red Army next month (November 1943), and whatever little doubts were left in his mind should have been cleared by then. But Manstein clung on to his positions with amazing boldness and, what at times seemed to be, superb generalship. It was not that he did not know that another "Stalingrad" was in the offing. But that he had in fact asked for it—and got it. Since the day his counter-offensive failed against the Kiev bulge, he must have been expecting that things would be developing in the way they have done. But he had no other choice.

THE German High Command must have felt that the Balkan front must be kept covered even if it involved very heavy sacrifices. That was why they had ordered Manstein not to yield ground. In fact, Manstein's army in the Dnieper bulge seemed to have been intended to be a Balkan army with the specific purpose of holding the Bug River line and protecting Rumania from the advance of the Red Army. That explains why Manstein launched such tenacious counter-strokes east of Vinnitsa. It was part of the general plan to protect the Balkan countries.

Manstein repeats Stalingrad attempt

JUST as he attempted to extricate Paulus' army which was encircled at Stalingrad last year, so also he has been trying his best to break through the iron ring which the Russians have formed around Kanev. *Reuter's* Special Correspondent in Moscow reporting on Tuesday says that the savage battle of the Kanev trap is reaching the climax on either side of the narrowed Russian encirclement ring gripping its south-western corner, and that the remnants of the trapped divisions are struggling to hold on from hour to hour, while Manstein, now only 15 miles away, is desperately trying to open the way for them to break out to freedom. The German General could not attack from the east or from the north because Kiev and Fastov are in Russian hands. He could not attack from the west because Byelaya-Cherkov, Poloskove and Buki are with the Russians. So he chose the only line of attack open to him along the railway line which leads from Novo-Ukraina in the south to Smyela, which is within the Russian encirclement, in the north. Manstein's attempts to

break through in the narrow sector north-west of Zvenigorodka have not succeeded, because the counter-offensive was not reinforced by the transfer of German reserves from other sectors. To make matters worse for Manstein, it seems a large part of his own army between Kirovograd and Byelaya-Cherkov has been encircled by the Red Army.

The Capture of Nikopol

THE capture of Nikopol, about 120 miles south-east of Kirovograd, by the Russians is a great blow to the Germans, for it is the centre of Russia's manganese ore mining industry. According to a distinguished metallurgist, if Hitler lost Nikopol Germany's steel industry would be at a stand-still in six months. Further the iron ore centre of Krivoirog has been outflanked and almost surrounded by the Red Army. The German Command decided to hold these rich industrial cities and face the danger of another encirclement. They have not succeeded in their object, but have fallen victims to Soviet encirclement.

IN February last year, the Germans surrendered at Stalingrad, and in February this year a smaller "Stalingrad" has been staged at Kanev. "I believe," said President Kalinin, at an investiture last week (February 10), "that this year we shall inflict a final blow on the Fascist invaders and will clear the enemy from all territories of the Soviet Union." At the pace things are happening in different sectors of the whole Russian front, it seems as though the Soviet President's hope will be realized long before the year is out.

RUNNING COMMENTARY

"Battle for Rome will be Won"—Mr. Churchill on Confidence of Allied Generals

In a statement issued on Saturday last (February 12), Mr. CHURCHILL refers to reports he had received from General Sir HENRY MAITLAND WILSON, Supreme Allied Commander in the Mediterranean theatre, and General Sir HAROLD ALEXANDER, Commander-in-Chief of the Allied Armies, regarding the fight for the Capital of Italy. He says that both the Commanders have expressed their confidence that the great battle now proceeding for the capture of Rome will be won. Mr. CHURCHILL's statement that there is no justification for pessimism will go a long way to dispel the feeling of disquietude that might have been created by enemy propaganda. General CLARK, Commander of the Fifth Army, has also expressed confidence in the successful outcome of the operations. The situation on both the Cassino and Anzio Fronts is satisfactory. General CLARK has welcomed the German attacks because they presented an additional opportunity to kill Germans in large numbers. The German offensive began on the night of February 7 and succeeded in gaining some ground, but British counter-attacks have since regained all the lost ground in the northern sector of the Anzio front. General CLARK referred to the battle which is severely hampered by bad weather as a "battle of endurance" and said, "We can move on confidently to the next step—the joining up of our forces for a victorious march into Rome."

* * * *

The broad position on the Italian battle-front may be summed up as

"SHORTENING THE NAZI LINES"

follows : The **Fifth** Army is holding the Anzio bridgehead firmly, and there is a lull in the battle, which means that the Germans are regrouping their armies with a view to launching a full-scale counter-offensive to sweep the Fifth Army back into the sea. Bitter fighting is going on in the Cassino front, where the village of Cairo has been captured by Allied troops. The Germans are using the famous Benedictine Monastery on Abbey Hill, overlooking Cassino, as a fortress, which is being subjected to Allied shelling.

Allied bombers and fighters have been hammering at Marshal KESSELRING's massing of troops, and it is stated that Allied squadrons have flown 800 sorties in 24 hours against targets near the beachhead battlefield. Previously, anticipating early German counter-attacks against the beachhead south-east of Rome, Allied bombers attacked rail junctions and bridges in the triangle formed by Rome, Pisa and Florence. They were able to cut three railways leading into Rome from the north and eleven north-south roads leading through the City. This heavy bombardment had the valuable effect of delaying large troop concentrations of the enemy and thereby giving precious time to the Allied forces to consolidate the bridgehead.

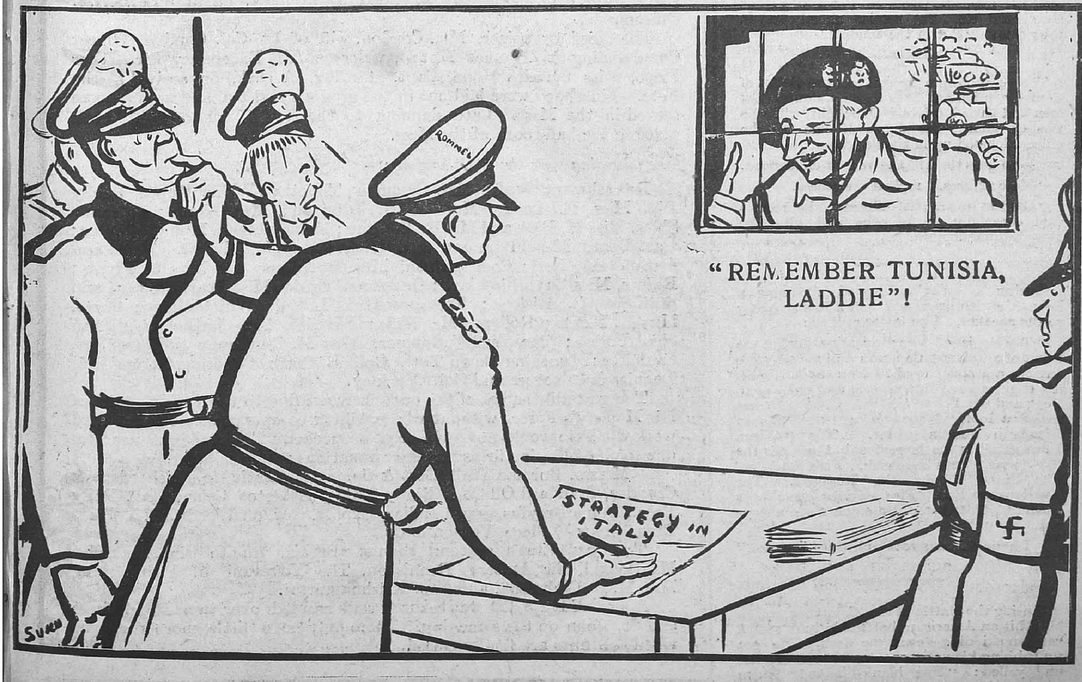
* * *

Kesselring's Plans to Protect the "Gustav Line"

What are Marshal KESSELRING's plans ? His immediate plan seems to be to clear the Rome-Capua railway of Allied forces. It is this railway which keeps the German divisions in the lower Garigliano sector supplied with men and munitions. It is likely that the Germans may intend building an uninterrupted railway line from the Albano region, which is about 20 miles south of Rome, to north of Littoria along the southern embankment of the railway. KESSELRING's ultimate plan is to try and smash the Nettuno bridgehead before the main Allied Fifth Army succeeds in smashing the "Gustav Line."

The fact that HITLER's S. S. body-guard troops and some Balkan forces which have not been till now encountered in the Italian battle-front anywhere, are now making their appearance, shows the great importance the Germans attach to the liquidating of the bridgehead. But it may be pointed out that the "Gustav Line" has been pierced in several places in the south by the Fifth Army. The savage and cohesive way in which the Germans are resisting against the British, American and French forces in the various sectors and the fierce contest in the Battle for Cassino seem to show that the German Command in Italy is prepared to risk even encirclement of small forces rather than carry out large-scale retreat from the "Gustav Line." The capture of Cassino by the Allies in the near future would not have the effect of eliminating German resistance in the south.

Owing to the mountainous terrain and bad weather, the Allies are not able to exploit to the full their armoured superiority. If KESSELRING does not succeed in the attempt to knock out the Nettuno bridgehead and allows the main body of the Fifth Army to sweep everything before it, it is possible that the Germans may be having in view the prospect of trying



—*Specially drawn for the* MADRAS WAR REVIEW.

and holding a line south and south-east of Rome by merging the forces which are situated along the Rome-Capua railway.

It seems as though the Germans are uncertain about the success of their plans. As though to pave the way for the ultimate fall of Rome, Lord HAW HAW has begun, in a Berlin broadcast, to minimise the military importance of Rome. There are also reports that the Germans have mined important buildings preparatory to evacuation of the city, just as they did previously in the case of Naples. But it must be recognized that the Germans will try to hold on to Rome as long as they possibly can, and they will make very heavy sacrifices to keep the Capital of Italy from falling into Allied hands.

An Irish soldier on duty in Egypt received a letter from his wife saying that because of the war she would have to dig the garden herself.

"Bridget, please don't dig the garden," wrote Pat. "That's where the guns are."

The letter was duly censored, and in a short time soldiers came and dug up the garden from end to end. Bridget, worried over the incident, wrote to Pat asking what she should do. Pat replied shortly and to the point: "Put in the spuds."

The young Negro recruit was the victim of so many practical jokes that he doubted all men and their motives. One night, while he was on guard, the figure of one of the officers loomed up in the darkness.

"Who goes there?" the recruit challenged.

"Major Moses," replied the officer.

"Glad to meet yuh, Moses," the recruit said cheerfully. "Advance and give the Ten Commandments."

During a question period following a lecture, a man arose and put a foolish query to the speaker. The latter replied :—

"The logic of your question makes me think of another. Can you tell me why fire engines are always red ? You can't. Well, fire engines have four wheels and eight men. Four and eight are twelve. Twelve inches make a foot. A foot is a ruler. Queen Elizabeth was a ruler. The "Queen Elizabeth" is the largest ship that sails the seven seas. Seas have fish. Fish have fins. The Finns fought the Russians. The Russians are Red. Fire engines are always rushin". Therefore, fire engines are always red.

"I hope this answers your question also."

During the Battle of the Solomons, a Jap shell hit an American battleship and sent a seaman skidding down the deck. He got up rubbing his nether parts, shook his fist and yelled: "You blank-blanks! Them was my clean pants!"

IN HIS OWN IMAGE

(*By* R.G.)

The dukes of Hell to Havoc
And Horror give the sign ;
And Death's dragoons ride darkly
Against the ragged line.

Man forms his ranks and fronts them,
Defiant though afraid,
And sees all Hell's battalions
In his own image made.

Man's heart that spawned the spectres
Shall countercharge and quell
And hound to native darkness
Dragoons and dukes of Hell.

FETE IN AID OF THE RED CROSS

The Fete arranged by Red Cross Working Party of St. Thomas' Mount in aid of the Red Cross and St. John Ambulance, was held on Friday, 11th February at the Officers' Mess, St. Thomas' Mount, with the kind permission of Lt.-Col Foster. The Fete was declared open by His Excellency the Governor of Madras in the unavoidable absence of Lady Hope. It was largely attended by military, naval and R.A.F. Officers.

The Chief Organizer, Mrs. Condon, wife of Lt.-Col. Condon, Officer Commanding St. Thomas' Mount, welcomed His Excellency Sir Arthur Hope, Miss Barbara Hope, Capt. Harding, A.D.C., on arrival at the Fete. Sideshows were laid out in the grounds and tea and supper were served in the Mess. Later dancing to the R.A.F. dance band took place in the ball room of the Mess.

The following were the Stall-holders :—

Refreshment Staff, Mrs. Hannah Timothy; One Rupee Lucky Dip, Miss E. Lock, Mrs. D. S. Jung and Mrs. Kemp; Coconut Shies, Miss M. Bibb and Mr. E. Boulton ; Francy Linen, Miss C. Taylor ; Dart Board, Miss Flynn and Sgt. Hicks ; Hoopla, Miss Q. Lazaro and L.-Cpl. A. Carri ; Cool Drinks, Mrs. D. Adams and Miss K. Flynn ; Raffles, Miss Chynthia Clark ; One Anna Throw, Miss Pearl Steward and Staff Sgt. O. Hislock ; Treasure Hut, L.-Cpl. Whittenbury ; Darts, Miss H. Floate ; Rollem, Mr. Mills ; Skittles, Sgt. Lafbery and Staff Sgt. Porter ; The Lucky Spinner, Miss M. Crutchney and Staff Sgt. Saunders ; Knocking Down Tins, Cpl. E. Cott ; Shooting Range, Cpl. Dennis, Cpl. Rogers and Cpl. Cruckley.

The grateful thanks of the organizers are due to the various units of His Majesty's Forces without whose willing co-operation, help and hard work the Fete would not have been a success. Their thanks are also due to the following firms for their donations :

Messrs. Burmah Shell, Best & Co., East Asiatic Co., Richardson & Cruddas, Standard Oil Co., Binny & Co., Asbestos Cement Co., Rally Bros., Louis Dreyfus, South Indian Export, Gordon Woodroffe, Volkart Bros., Shaw Wallace, Vernon & Co.

The Committee's grateful thanks are also due to Sir Alexander MacDougal, Sir Robert Denniston, The Yuvarani of Pithapuram, Mrs. M. N. Clubwalla, and Mrs. Krishnamurthi.

A sum of Rs. 3,800 was realized and handed over to the Red Cross and St. John on the same day. There may be a little more to come when accounts are finally closed.

A MAN OF THE EIGHTH ARMY

(*By* R.G.)

He came from a village.
He knew nothing of Europe's madness
or of the cancerous growth crawling
from those eastern volcanic islands.
He did not know
when he first put on the king's uniform
why he should fight
any more than in what strange regions.
He knew the seasons,
the overlapping clouds of the monsoon,
the empty sky of drought.
He knew his cattle's ways,
the buffalo's wallow,
the well intermittently creaking.
He knew the talk at evening
under the pipal tree
and the bidi smoke and the elders' reproof.
He knew the young wife
who died in childbirth, and his mother's
patience and scolding.

For a hundred years,
for a hundred and fifty,
from the time of his grandfather's grandfather,
they had not seen war there,
in the village of the thatched houses
and the rich man's two-storeyed
bright-painted iron-barred house.
Evening after evening the chattering
of young women at the well,
dawn after dawn the ploughman
following his bullocks and the harvester
moving down the field with sharp
traditional sickle
had been the figures of his mind's
accepted picture.

Now he knows
why he fights. He has seen
the Master-Folk prisoners but truculent,
brutal, with harshness in their step :
and has been where they destroyed
wantonly and ground their jackboots
into the midriff of victimized peoples.
He has met their might
and recoiled till his own matched it.
He has entered
cities delivered and heard
cheering of multitudes still incredulous
of freedom and enough to eat.

He is not what he was.
His shoulders have broadened, his arms
have vigour for tremendous
and once undreamt tasks.
His eyes, even formerly keen
can see across miles of desert and valleys
where men are dots
in the distance and exploding shells
like bursting cotton-pods.
Intricate tools and weapons
he handles more familiarly
than the chaff-cutter at home.
Among strange men and complexities
of civilization he moves at ease.

His leaders were hard taskmasters.
Daily in camp with drill and exercise
they broke him in to his harness
and built him compact
of body and will, a man
disciplined, determined, dauntless.
They threw him into dangerous gaps
still raw and took him out bleeding
but unbroken.
They gave him tending but also toils
without stint.
Now he stands erect,
sure on his feet,
untiring,
a master-soldier and undefeated.

He has broken the lines
the cunning enemy built to be impregnable.
He has heard the guns
throw whistling death before and behind
and the giant machines
come down the slopes in thunder
or with bombs from the summit of heaven.
He has stood his ground
and held the assault with the bayonet.
Among fighting men he is held in honour
and knowing the worth of others
knows his own.

And still he remembers his village,
the intermittent creak of the well,
the squirrel scurrying on the banyan,
the shade of the plantain leaves,
his sister's children.
He has seen gutted villages
of Africa and Sicily and helped
to relieve the necessities of the afflicted,
thinking the while
of his father's cattle shambling on the bund
and his childhood's companions
cross-legged on the verandah.
He does not know
when he will return : but he expects
a welcome and he is sure
his village will not be burnt and battered.
He is a fighting man
but he has not forgotten peace.

BUILDING NEW BRIDGES—AN AMERICAN

SEPTEMBER 21, 1943.

THE news from Italy is a foretaste of the kind of situation that will test the mettle of soldiers and diplomats alike as our troops penetrate further into "Fortress Europe."

In the old days when a country surrendered, the war was over. The enemy laid down their arms. The generals and statesmen laid down the terms of peace. A few remained to see they were carried out. And the folks at home cheered and looked forward to welcoming back their boys.

That was the idea that naturally blossomed in many American hearts when they heard Italy had surrendered. And then it turned out not to be as simple as that.

The Italian boot was not neatly sliced off from the rest of Europe as many map-makers had indicated. When we started to move into the country we had "conquered", we met some of the stiffest gunfire our doughboys have run up against. German troops blocked our way to the Brenner Pass. Mussolini "escaped" and was reported to be reforming fascist divisions of his own in Northern Italy.

By DuBOIS MORRIS JR.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE VICEROY'S TEA PARTY.—Their Excellencies, Lord and Lady Wavell, gave an outdoor tea party in the grounds of the Viceroy's House recently: nearly 200 Indian and British convalescent patients from the B.M.H. and I.M.H. were invited. Photo shows *Ac. C. Skeet* (right), *Callington, Cornwall, chatting with the Viceroy. The above group does not include Lady Wavell.*

* * *

The Italian people themselves were confused by events, unsure whether to support the Allied invaders openheartedly or wait to see what happened. A marked division of opinion in this country about the men with whom the armistice was negotiated, further complicated our reactions to the news. Meanwhile extremists of the left in this country, and underground workers in Bologna, Turin, Genoa and Milan came forward with their ideas for upsetting the whole apple cart.

This lifting of the lid gave us a glimpse of the forces and counterforces that have grown up on the European continent since the peacemakers at Versailles packed their briefcases and went home. Only those who have lived through those years on the spot can know the intensity of passions sown and nurtured. It needs more than guns and political technique to deal with such forces. It needs moral insight.

A former high official of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in one of the Balkan nations emphasized this point to me in a recent conversation. His country is at the centre of the cross-currents of conflicting European interests and ideologies. Feelings run deep and hate speaks with lead.

He got his wife and child on a train across the border a matter of hours before the Nazi blitz hit the capital. He watched the German bombers move in, lying flat on the grass between some trees in a park. (It proved to be the safest spot. Many of the 24,000 people killed in that city those first two days were trapped in non-bombproof shelters). A few days later he himself escaped in the last plane to leave the country.

He rejoined his wife and child in Cairo, and they eventually got to New York after an encounter with an Atlantic torpedo en route.

The Balkan diplomat is anxious to return to his homeland immediately the Nazi yoke is lifted. Many Americans, he intimated, are apt to think that a democratic answer will automatically replace Axis despotism. That is only because they don't realize the violent, bullet-spattered antagonisms in the midst of which these Central Europeans live, and have lived for years. Almost every person in his country is caught in the opposing fire of Nazism and Communism.

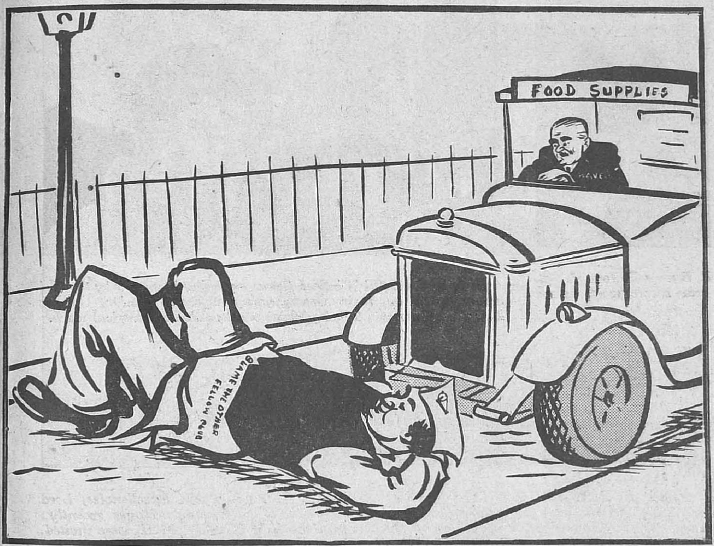
"Foreign ideas get hooked on to our national ideas and idealism, so that even sincere patriots don't see what it's all about," he explained. "And men who could lead, who want neither one nor the other of these 'isms,' too often go off half-cocked, because their vision is distorted by personal ambition or moral defeats. When moral issues are confused, people's thinking gets mixed up. In the general chaos only statesmen guided by moral and spiritual standards can see clearly enough to give the answer."

"In fact," he added, "I see only three choices for Europe after the war—Communism, Fascism or Moral Re-Armament."

* * *

Europe is not the only continent troubled with these problems of moral confusion. And the Balkan patriot is not the only statesman thinking along these lines. Last week China's Generalissimo felt it necessary to state

JOURNALIST'S AFTER-WAR RECIPE



His Excellency the Viceroy and the Food Situation.

—Specially drawn for the MADRAS WAR REVIEW.

again the need for national unity and tell the negative, divisive forces in his country where to get off.

Madame Chiang Kai-shek was talking to a friend of mine not long ago. She, too, recognizes that men of character are the first essential on which to build a sound nation. She suggested the prime qualification to look for in selecting men for the Chinese cabinet was men "without a moral problem."

Her test sets a standard of requirement for Government officials that might well apply to other nations. Only the establishment of men with clear moral standards in positions of control will mark the final conquest of materialistic regimes our arms have overthrown. Only our insistence on men "without a moral problem" in our own high places will entitle us to recommend this course to other lands.

★

FIRST W.A.C. (I) O.C.T.U. OPENS.

Travelling from all parts of India, officer-cadets of the Women's Auxiliary Corps (Indi a assembled at Delhi before proceeding to the Corps' first Officer-Cadet Training Unit which was held recently in the Simla Hills.

The girls could be distinguished by white flashes on their shoulders and white bands on their caps.

Commodious buildings with spacious grounds have been acquired. Here the girls will be given a training which will enable them to assume the appointments to which they will later be posted.

So rapidly has the W.A.C. (I) grown that the demand for trained officers has now become acute. Last autumn it was decided that commissions would normally be given to girls who have been through the ranks. Accordingly W.A.C. (I) Commanding Officers in all parts of India were asked to select from among their units girls who they considered would make competent officers.

Those selected were sent to Dehra Dun, where they came before a W.A.C. (I) Personnel Selection Board. Psychiatrists watched while they performed various tasks designed to test their initiative, resourcefulness and general capability.

Out of 45 candidates 30 were selected, of which English and Indian girls are about equal in numbers. Every one of these girls has served in the ranks for periods varying from 6 to 20 months.

Further batches of officer-cadets will enter the O.C.T.U. at intervals of two months.

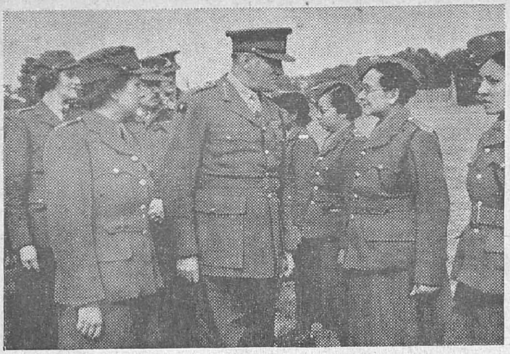
On arrival at Delhi the girls found themselves billeted in tents. The novelty of life in a tented-camp, the drill parades and the general discipline appealed to them and stimulated a sense of adventure. Here officers and auxiliaries have been living for some time, although it is intended that they will go into a new hostel, now nearing completion, before the hot weather starts.

Two girls share a large tent, which has a big brick fireplace at one end, around which are grouped easy chairs, tables and a writing desk for each. At the other end are beds, dressing tables and wardrobes. The tents make easy homes, lined for warmth and having windows, while the floors are brick, covered with thick matting.

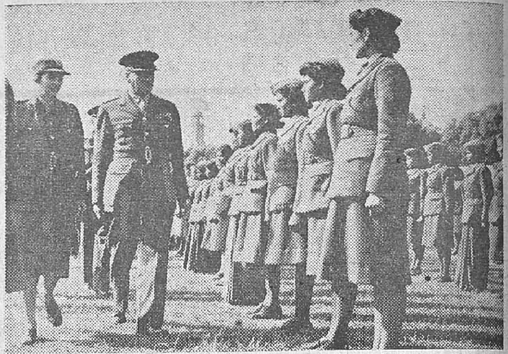
(*See Pictures on pages* 10 *and* 11.)

W.A.C. (I)'s AT DELHI.—Marching smartly on to the Parade Ground.

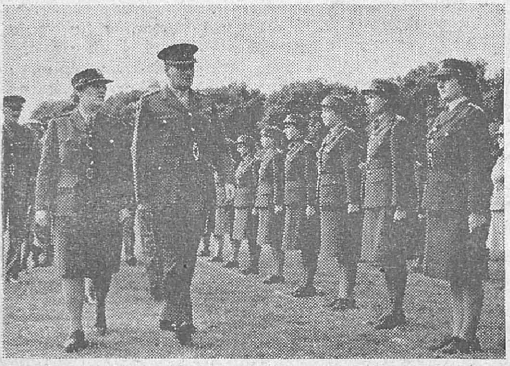
"You are Definitely Helping to Win the War"—H.E. Sir



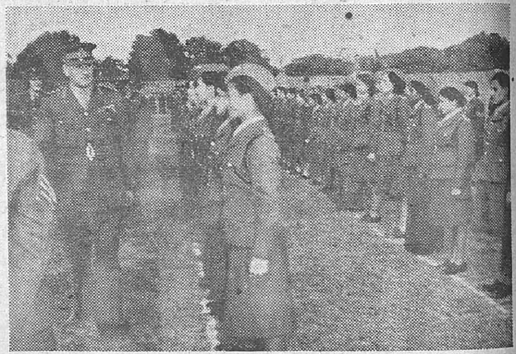
The C.-in-C. talking to L/Sgt. L. C. Hinault, Burma Platoon. L/Sgt. Hinault's home was Rangoon where she did heroic work as an Ambulance Driver during the blitz.



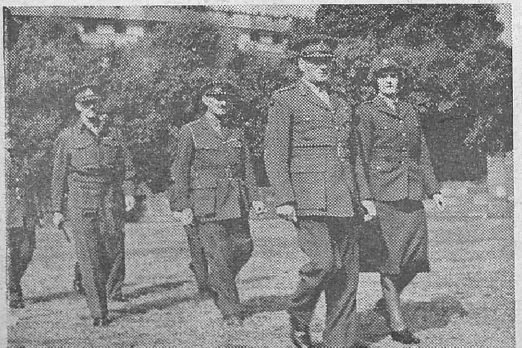
Girls of the Delhi Wireless Company being inspected by the C.-in-C. accompanied by their Commanding Officer, Senior Commander E. F. V. Warren. These girls do most valuable technical work.



The Commander-in-Chief, accompanied by Regional Commander E. M. Dennys, who commanded the Parade, inspecting some of the officers.



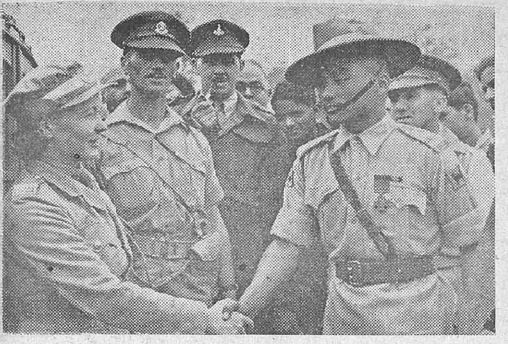
The Burma Platoon of Delhi Company being inspected by the Commander-in-Chief. The majority of this Platoon are Burma evacuees.



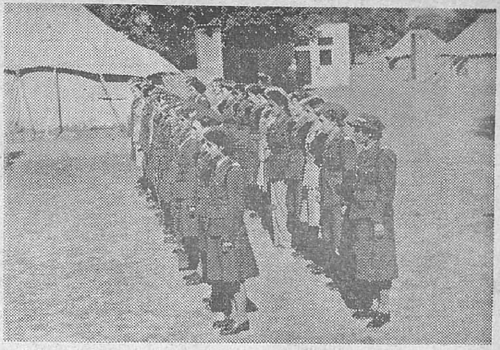
The Commander-in-Chief walking to the Saluting Base accompanied by Chief Commander M. E. Douglas. Behind them (left to right) are the Deputy Adjutant-General, General Freeland, and Lt.-Col. J. S. Wilkins, Commandant, G.H.Q. (Delhi) Sub-Area.

W.A.C. (I.)'s cheerfully piling into one of the transport lorries after the Inspection Parade.

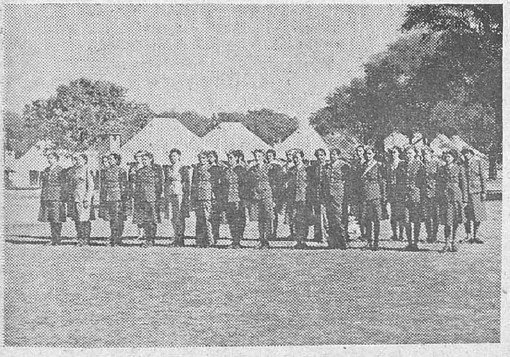
Claude Auchinleck at a recent Inspection Parade at Delhi



Officer-Cadet Daphne Williamson, of the Boundary, Ightam, near Sevenoaks, Kent, congratulates Jemadar Gaje Ghale, Fifth Royal Gurkha Rifles, after he had been presented with the Victoria Cross by the Viceroy Lord Wavell, at Delhi.



FIRST W.A.C. (I.), O.C.T.U. AT DAGSHAI.—Chosen from all parts of India, Officer-Cadets of the Women's Auxiliary Corps (India) assembled at Delhi before proceeding to the Corps' first Officer-Cadet Training Unit, at Dagshai, in the Simla Hills.



AT THE W.A.C. (I.), O.C.T.U. AT DAGSHAI.—Owing to the rapid growth of the Corps, the demand for well trained officers has become urgent. Photo shows *the Cadets on parade.*

AT DAGSHAI—Enjoying a game of deck-tennis—From left to right—on the far side of the net, *Maureen Arber, Calcutta and Tina Vaughan, Shillong, Assam and Cheselbourne, Dorset, England.* On the near side *are Damyanti Kapila, Lahore, and Mitkyina, Burma and Bimal Sashital, Proctor Road, Bombay.*

AT THE O.C.T.U. AT DAGSHAI.—Relaxing in the sunshine— From left to right: *Edna Cardies, Clyton, Lovedale, Nilgiris, Jill Lewis, Ivy Lodge, Simla, and Bourne End, Bucks, England, Jean Buckley, Saharanpur Road, Dehra Dun, and Harcharan Kaur, Aurrit Nivas (Park), Simla.*

Officer-Cadets of the Women's Auxiliary Corps (India) assembled at Delhi before proceeding to Dagshai. Further batches of Cadets will go to Daghshai at intervals of two months. The above photograph taken at Delhi shows *Officer-Cadets marching out of Camp.*

HIS LAST ASSIGNMENT

RAYMOND CLAPPER

RAYMOND CLAPPER, the world famous columnist and commentator on world events, was killed in an airplane collision while covering the Marshall Islands invasion. He was on self-assigned duty in the Pacific. Previously the 51-year old journalist had visited England, Sweden, Egypt, India and China.

Of him President Roosevelt wrote in a condolence letter to Mrs. Clapper, "It was characteristic of Ray's fidelity to the great traditions of reporting, that the day's work should find him at the scene of action for firsthand facts in the thick of the fight."

We publish below a selection of dispatches written by Raymond Clapper during his last trip, which was prompted by a desire to bring home to United States readers the importance and grimness of the Pacific war.

SAN FRANCISCO: It looks as if I'm getting away for another trip to write about the war.

Once you have been out as a war correspondent and have come home with your nose clean, it is fairly easy getting out again. The War Department gave me back my original war-correspondent's credentials, the same little green card I've carried on two previous trips into war theatres.

It is one of the early one's issued, No. 90, and is dated February 28, 1942, a short time after Pearl Harbour.

I got it when I went out across the new air supply route that Pan-American Airways was throwing across the heart of Africa to transport spare parts and light supplies and personnel to the Middle East, India and China. That airline was an amazing demonstration of what could be done quickly by air. Yet it was a pathetic, weak, little Allied lifeline. When you think back on it, we must not have realised then how near we were to losing the war.

CAIRO AND CALCUTTA IN DANGER

We had to cross Africa by going in below Dakar, down around Liberia and Accra and Lagos. That route skirted the edge of Axis forces. Ft. Lamy, one of our stops in the heart of Africa, had been bombed a short time before we went through. At that very time we were developing a parallel line still further south in case the first route was cut by the Axis. Cairo and Calcutta were in danger and evacuation was going on.

Now all Africa is ours, and the Mediterranean is ours.

I think about all that when I look at this little green war-correspondent's identification card that bears my photograph, finger-prints and description. I carried it to Sweden and to England last spring, and now it has been given back to me for another trip out to the war.

That card and my passport are the two most important things I carry, far more important than money or traveller's cheques. You can travel as a war correspondent without using money, but you can't travel without credentials.

The State Department always gives me back my old passport. It was first issued when I went to England in the summer of 1941. This passport has been with me as far east as Chungking, as far north as Lapland, Sweden and Iceland. It has crossed the equator several times, has flown in all more than 100,000 miles. It has been over the Amazon and through the African desert. It has visited the Pyramids, flown over Jerusalem, travelled in crowded trains through India, and followed General Patton's Seventh Army across Sicily. It has more visas than General MacArthur has decorations.

PASSPORT DIDN'T GO TO ROME

As I recall it, the passport didn't get to go on the bombing of Rome. You are supposed on such occasions to check all your papers on the ground, except a letter which certifies the bearer as a non-combatant and entitled to be treated as a lawful belligerent in event of capture by the enemy. Nobody told me to get one of those papers until I was ready to climb aboard, and then it was too late. But this time I am going out with the navy, and they checked me in with one of those certificates all fingerprinted and entitling me to be kicked around by the Japs as a lawful belligerent.

This time I didn't have to take any shots. I showed the doctor at the Naval dispensary my Army immunisation register from previous trips. It certifies that I am adequately loaded against smallpox, typhoid, tetanus, yellow fever and typhus. They don't have any shots to keep your feet from cracking between the toes. But a friend has slipped me a couple of boxes of the new deadly-secret louse powder. It's lucky for some people I'm leaving immediately.

Martin Codel, who was in Africa for the Red Cross, has just sent me his khaki dispatch case, the same one I borrowed to take to Sicily. A dispatch case is the army field substitute for a brief case. Next to a typewriter it is a war correspondent's most useful piece of equipment.

I have forgotten one or two things, but at this writing I don't know what they are. I hope to think of them before shoving off.

HONOLULU

Our New Year's Eve party aboard a navy freight plane bound from San Francisco to Honolulu was a simple one.

Frank Mason, special assistant to Secretary of the Navy Knox, and I were the only hitchhikers aboard. We were tucked among mailbags and a cargo of war supplies.

It was just midnight in the East. Frank and I climbed to the top turret of our big seaplane and stood there looking out on the lights of San Francisco as they faded in the distance. Then we went below where the crew had a New Year's Eve dinner prepared by the Chinese boy who came from Hongkong three years ago to join the navy and learn English.

As we sat down, Navigator Hank Phillips proudly passed around bright paper caps and New Year's Eve noisemakers that he had bought during the afternoon at Alameda.

MOST FLYERS FAMILY MEN

Hank is the comedian of the crew, and he made our mouths water by his pantomime of drinking New Year's toasts in champagne. Hank didn't say much about it, but he was thinking about the baby of which he expects to become the father shortly, back in Janesville, Wis. In fliers' lingo, Hank said the baby's "ETA"—estimated time of arrival—is January 12. After that we left safe, because he is determined to be back in San Francisco on the date of the baby's arrival.

It surprised me to learn that most of the officers and men of this squadron are married. Of some 200 officers, all except a dozen either are fathers or expect to be soon. So these men of Captain Don Smith's naval air transport organization are known as the Stork Squadron.

Out of thousands of flights, running at least one a day over the longest regular water jump in the world, they have never had a plane even forced down. At this point I knock on wood.

You ought to know this crew because they are carrying a lot of your mail to your sons and brothers and husbands

in the Pacific—thousands of pounds of it every day. In fact, on this huge seaplane Frank Mason and I look like just a couple of mere mailbags, wrapped in the fur-lined leather flight coats the crew provided for us.

"TOKYO ROSE" POPULAR ENTERTAINER

The men argue, the way everybody else does, about when the war will end. Each school of thought has its own slogan: "Back alive in '45," "Out of this fix in '46," "Oh heaven in '47," and "The Golden Gate in '48." That's as far as they've worked out the schedule.

The men talk a great deal about their families, and about incidents of previous flights, but relatively little about the war as a whole. No wonder. They are busy running back and forth between San Francisco and points in the Pacific, and they have their own work to do. For amusement they play poker or listen to "Tokyo Rose," Japan's Lady Haw-Haw, who is their chief laugh.

When Tokyo Rose coos in soft English, "Listen, honey, how do you like those draft rejectees back home taking out your girl?", fellows like Hank who are waiting for the stork think it's a good joke.

We have no hangovers from our simple New Year's celebration, but as Captain Bishop said, "What a hell of a way to make a living!"

NEW GEORGIA

I had read much about the Munda campaign, but not until I went over the ground where we suffered over 25 per cent casualties did the story come to life in all its grimness.

Admiral Nimitz was understating it when he said this was the worst terrain he had ever seen. It is surely the worst he will ever see. One Marine Colonel said the jungle was so dense he never saw the sun for days at a time.

Our forces landed here early last August. Three days later, the Seabees moved up with bulldozers and dynamite, to remove the coconut groves and saw off the hilltop, and in 56 hours we were using the air strip. The Japanese air strip here, as everywhere else, was too small. It was 3,700 feet long. We built one 8,000 feet long and thrice as wide as the Japanese.

Now after five months, Munda has a huge coral-surfaced air field, hard-surfaced roads and a hill covered with installations and supplies, making this place a strong forward base.

The Japanese had hastily occupied Munda for the meagre fighter strip at the climax of the nearby battle of Guadalcanal, when they were about to lose Henderson Field to us. The Japanese were primitive but effective. I visited one of their dugouts, encountering tunnels 30 feet back into the coral rock. It was blasted and chopped out by hand and had coconut logs as supporting timbers. In fact, it was so large and strong we used it temporarily for an air control plotting room.

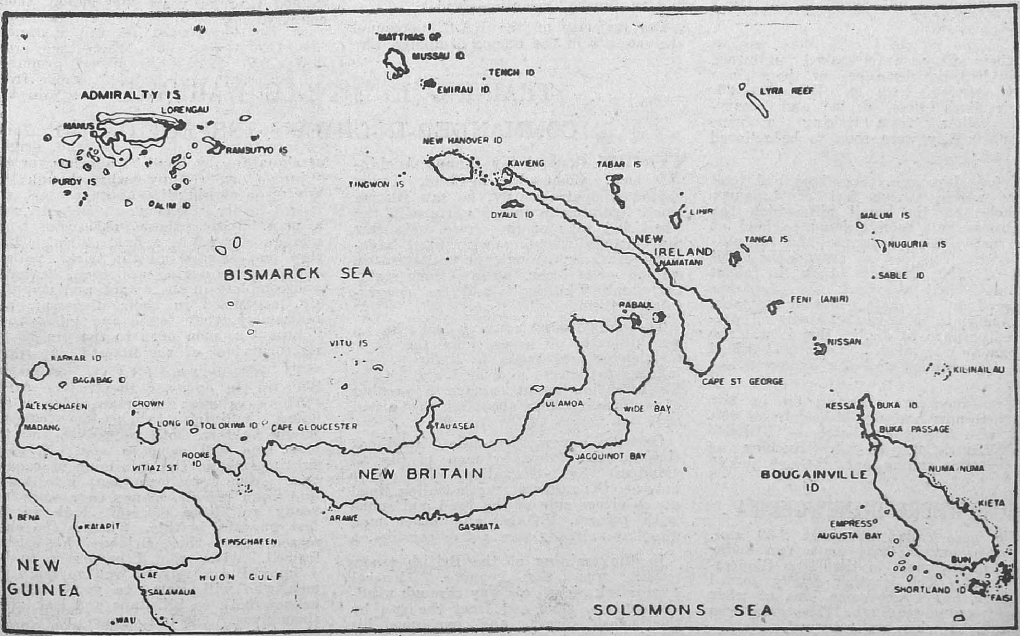
We had to dynamite the Japanese out of dugouts like this because some of them stood up under direct bomb hits.

The Japanese had only narrow roads or trails. All their work was done by hand. They had no heavy road building machinery such as we bring in everywhere out here. We entered the jungle this way—patrols first, bulldozers next, followed by jeeps and artillery.

No United States troops ever went through anything more severe. Many of them have been invalided home, but many are still here. The 43rd Division endured living hell.

We are using some captured Japanese landing barges. Also, for a while we used some American trucks the Japanese left, and we found a three-wheeled type of American motor cycle which the Japanese had converted into a light ammunition carrier. We found oxygen bottles marked "Made in U.S.A." and two coastal batteries of 4.7 Armstrong-Vickers guns which are believed captured at Hong-kong.

But it is all quiet now around here, except for air raids and the fight against



SOUTH-WEST PACIFIC.—Raymond Clapper's first-hand impressions of the Pacific warfare "somewhere in New Guinea" will be found on the next page.

the jungle scourges. Lieut. John R. Dexheimer of Louisville, Ky., said the greatest danger was from coconut trees with shrapnel-weakened trunks falling down on tents.

SOMEWHERE IN AUSTRALIA

The Pacific war is partly a war against the Japanese and partly a war against the mosquitoes which carry malaria and dengue fever. When I went ashore at one South Pacific Island base, the first sign greeting me as I left the dock was a poster nailed to a tall coconut tree. One picture on the poster showed a Japanese soldier and underneath was the phrase: "He caused one casualty." The next was a picture of a mosquito with the line: "He caused many casualties."

The fight is never-ending. They spray all the ditches with diesel oil three times a week. The men take all the precautions possible. An enormous effort is being put forth against disease by the United States military.

* * *

AT CAPE GLOUCESTER

We drove by jeep through deep mud like axle grease over a so-called road until we reached the end of the track leading up hill 660. The morning I arrived the Marines drove the Japanese over the hilltop. I met some Marines coming down—regimental scouts who had been out ahead of the front line.

A dozen of these men were resting in their dirty water-soaked uniforms. They had not been out of them since they landed here on December 26. Their faces were drawn and weary, and yellow from taking atabrine tablets. They were soon to be relieved for rest.

A few days ago, these boys had fox-holes within twelve feet of Japanese foxholes on the small hill which the Japanese had been ordered to hold at all costs. The Japanese had 50 pill-boxes pointing out all around the small hilltop. The Marines took it about 4 p.m. Then at dark the Japanese charged in a mass counter attack, chanting in English, "Marines, prepare, prepare to die." But it was the Japanese who died. We lost 15 killed and 50 wounded and the Japanese lost 280.

These men are slogging on in the wet hell now and my last sight of the men who fought the battle of Hill 660 was Lieut.-Col. E. J. Buckley of Pennsylvania calling out, "Good luck."

* * *

SOMEWHERE IN NEWGUINEA

We were called at about 2-30 a.m. to board our PT-boat for a run under cover of darkness to the Cape Gloucester front. The weather finally forced us back but I got some idea of what these men go through. The crew was bleary-eyed when we returned.

PT crews have remarkably low casualties considering the almost point-blank range at which they fight. Out of this unit only seven have been killed in 13 months and 20 Purple Hearts have been awarded for wounds. But between September 27 and December 25 they sank 104 Japanese barges and damaged 28.

Almost every individual has some little religious charm or other good-luck token. Many wear a little image of St. Christopher, the patron saint of travellers.

The PT crews are living a very rugged life. They sleep on their boats when those are tied up. Their mess hall has an old piano—probably the only one in New Guinea. When I arrived it was played by a man in the unit, Ensign Roger Bordman, a concert pianist from New York. It gives a bright touch of music in the damp dark jungle on the shores of New Guinea. It is the only soft touch of civilization in this rugged base.

BURMA INTELLIGENCE CORPS

Working with British and Indian troops on patrols into Japanese occupied Burma to-day are members of the Burma Intelligence Corps, a body of Burma Army men—Burmese, Anglo-Burmese, Karens and Kachins. With their intimate knowledge of Burma and the Burmese language, they are guides, philosophers and friends to their brothers-in-arms. They act as interpreters, establish friendly relations with the local inhabitants, and smooth over any difficulty that may occur.

Coaching in essential phrases in Burmese is also given by B.I.C. men to the troops. Many a British Tommy and Indian Jawan, cut off in enemy territory during patrols and working back to our lines, has escaped starvation, when, coming on a Burmese village, he has asked "hin thee hin ywet", a phrase peculiar to the lingua franca of country folk in Burma, meaning—food.

The majority of the B.I.C. personnel are veterans of the Burma campaign who gave a good account of themselves against the Japanese as auxiliaries in ack-ack and field artillery, infantry, and armoured cars. They marched out with General Alexander on the fall of their homeland in May 1942, to be trained and reformed in India for this corps.

Most of them can speak good English, and this has to a large extent helped to foster the spirit of "comraderie" prevailing between them and British troops on the Burma border. The officers, both Burmese and British, are drawn from all walks of life. Many of them former "teak-wallahs" from Government forest departments and timber firms, they are now applying to useful purpose their many years' experience of work in the jungles of Burma. The Commanding Officer is a veteran police chief with deep and intimate knowledge of the Burmese gained through years' of service in the country.

TRAINING IN JUNGLE WARFARE

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF'S INSPECTION

When General Sir Claude Auchinleck, Commander-in-Chief, India, visited Bhopal recently, he saw British troops training in jungle warfare in the forest-clad hills of the State. He saw these troops charging with fixed bayonets, smashing through the undergrowth, leaping over rocks, he saw them stalking, and "killing" and he congratulated them.

Through forest country set in an amphitheatre of green hills the Commander-in-Chief made a six-hour tour talking to officers and men and noting for attention on his return a number of welfare matters about which he had inquired.

Opening a new three-mile road cut through the forest by men of the 20 (Madras) I.E. Battalion, he drove between the ranks of the battalion lined up on either side of the road and spoke with officers, V.C.Os. and other men who have already seen active services.

In the training of the British troops realism was the keynote. General Auchinleck picked his way through winding gulleys, shut out from the sun by the dense forest, and exclaimed his satisfaction at the demonstration of patrol work by the troops. A "cemetery" of careless soldiers met the eye at the end of the patrol, a cross and a grave for the men who "shouted instead of signalling by hand", another for the "jungle smart guy who thought he knew everything", another for the patrol leader "who was unable to read a map." But these flesh and blood soldiers showed in a final skirmish that they had learned all the tricks. Silent and invisible during approach, explosive and complete in the attack and mopping up, organized in their dispersal and reassembly, they found and killed their "Japs" as men born to the jungle and its "survival of the fittest" law.

To officers and N.C.Os. assembled later in an open-air theatre, he said: "This is a most important job you are doing, training to become efficient jungle fighters, both yourselves and the men who will come to you. Efficient fighting means the minimum of casualties. Men have been sent into battle and been killed because they were not ready and fully efficient, both in the last war and in this. That is the chief reason why this Brigade has been formed. After what I have seen to-day I know I can rely on you to train the men who will come to you. Efficient enough both to kill Japs and look after themselves. Seeing your work has cheered me up a lot."

A visit to a Field Ambulance, where he talked with British and Indian patients, concluded a day's round tour of approximately 150 miles.

MAP OF THE PACIFIC WAR ZONE

CARPENTERS IN THE I.A.F.

CARPENTERS in the Indian Air Force are being trained to use their skill behind the operational war front in keeping our fighter planes in the air.

The wood propellers—or airscrews—of fighter aircraft often meet trouble and need first aid or a major operation to put them back in the fighting line.

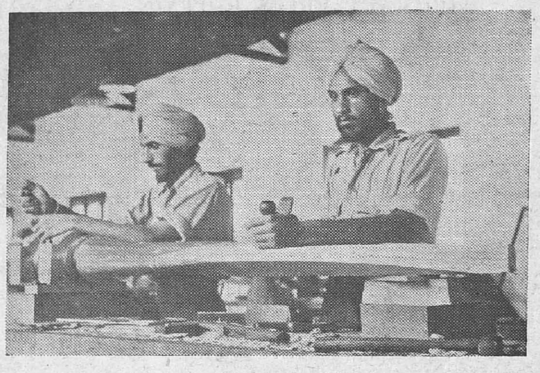
It is to the Indian wood craftsmen, whose skill with plane and spokeshave, is unrivalled, that they go for treatment. In their hands damaged blades or broken tips are carefully remoulded to emerge within a few days or weeks as good as new.

Wooden propeller blades are made from Canadian soft or hard timber. A softwood blade is built up of layers of either Douglas fir or Sitka spruce, finger-spliced into a laminated birchwood root which is jointed to the barrel of the propeller. A hard wood propeller is constructed in identical fashion, but is of Canadian birchwood.

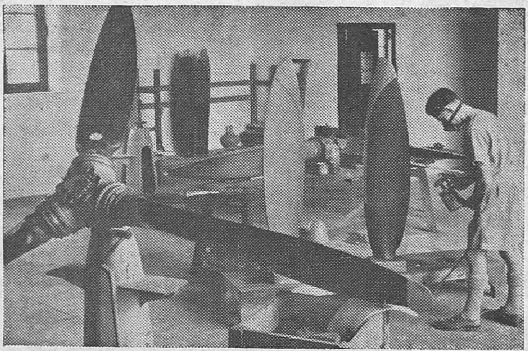
Damaged sections of blades are cut away and new portions are 'grafted' on in layers by splicing. A slow-drying glue is inserted between the layers which are clamped together for days under tremendous pressure.

Next the carpenter rough-shapes a new blade from the block formed by the layers of wood and then with infinite patience planes the blade into shape, checking and re-checking it, section by section, against a metal pattern to ensure accuracy of curve and balance.

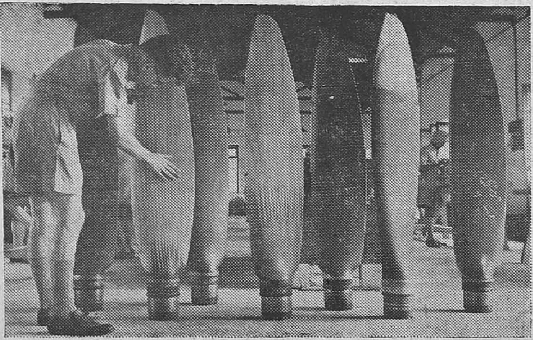
He finishes off the surface with glass paper and then passes it on to be tipped with brass, covered with a thin fabric, 'doped' or painted, and finally balanced. The balancing process is of vital importance. If the three blades of a propeller were out of balance their motion would cause the engine to vibrate and render it unserviceable within a few moments.



Shaping the new wooden blade is a tricky business, but these I.A.F. carpenters are experts at the job.



Spraying with "dope" as a protection against the weather.



Final examination before the blades are despatched to storage units.

Hitler died, and went "below". Satan answered his knock, told him to wait a minute, went away and returned with a box of matches and a bundle of firewood.

He gave both to Hitler, with the remark: "Listen, Adolf, there's a limit to what even we can stand. Take these and start a Hades of your own."

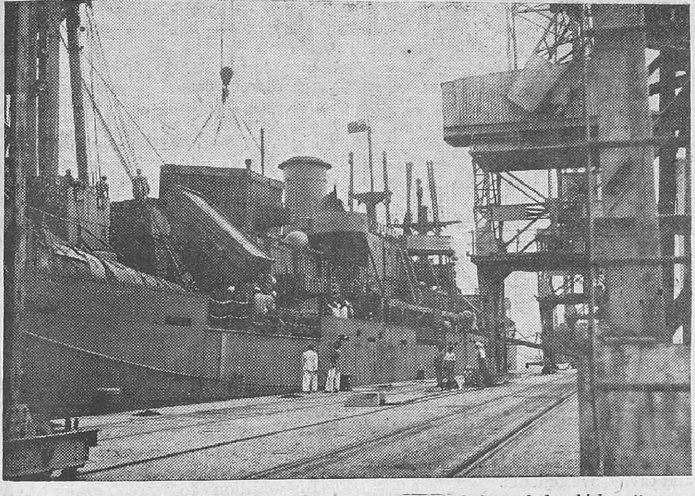
After his "medical" was over, the Army doctor eyed the tall and very thin recruit in silence.

"Well, doctor," said the recruit, nervously at last, "how do I stand?"

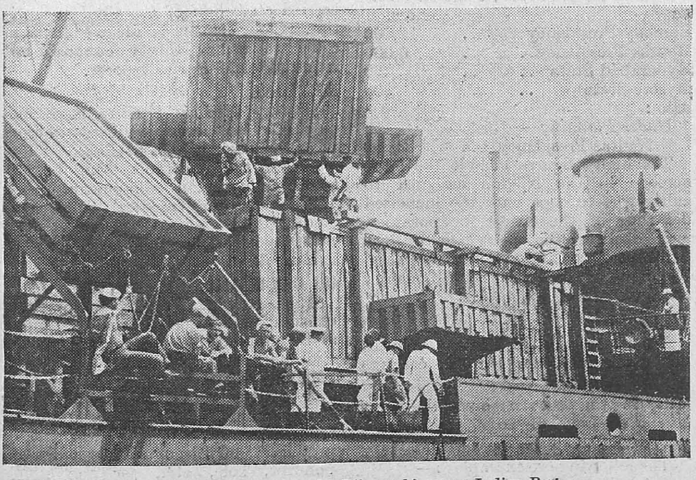
"Don't ask me," replied the M.O. "It's a miracle!"

AT AN INDIAN SEAPORT

AIRCRAFT FROM BRITAIN AND UNITED STATES



American Liberty ships arrive at Indian Ports with their decks stacked as high as the funnels with crated aircraft and equipment.



Another view of arrival of a Liberty ship at an Indian Port.

A GLIMPSE of the steady flow of aircraft into India from Britain and the United States was afforded me recently when the authorities allowed me to visit the docks of an important Indian seaport.

I was taken to the quay where a Liberty ship had just berthed ready to discharge a cargo of dive-bombers. Huge crates of aircraft towered high above the decks, reaching in some places to almost funnel height. Every available inch of deck space had been utilized. Temporary gangways had been built over and around the crates to enable the crew to pass from end to end of the ship.

Gangs of coolies were already busy preparing the discharge of the crated aircraft. Stout wooden structures to which the crates were clamped to prevent their shifting in rough seas were speedily knocked clear. Giant mobile cranes swung into action. Their tough steel hawsers were carefully secured round the huge gray-painted crates and the process of unloading had begun.

I was told that each crate weighed at least ten tons, yet the crane drivers and stevedores manœuvred them as though they were handling cases of tinned fruit. And the reason was not far to seek—the unloading of crated aircraft is not an event but almost a daily occurrence. so the men are now fully experienced in discharging, speedily and efficiently, this type of cargo.

A ship's officer confided to me that the ship had just made its maiden voyage. But this, again, I learned was not an event. Liberty ships leaving American ports on maiden voyages to India, carrying war supplies, are numerous, to put it mildly.

I inquired whether there had been any trouble with submarines during the voyage. "No", the officer replied. "They didn't worry us at all. Our main worry was the cargo and the weather. We were so heavily laden with war supplies that a patch of rough weather we struck gave us all the trouble we could handle for the time."

Within a few hours all crated aircraft had been unloaded on to the quayside, which was pretty good going because they are not shipped in twos and threes. A few hours later, I was told, most of them would be on their way to an assembly depot. The remaining crates would be picked up early next day to make room for the discharge of another shipment.

And as I left the quayside I noticed some of the aircraft were already being loaded on to great elongated motor transports, known as Queen Marys' in the Royal Air Force of their exceptional length (sixty feet) and carrying capacity. In a few weeks' time these same aircraft will have been assembled, tested, and ready for the Burma front.

AIR OFFICER'S INTEREST IN VILLAGE CHILDREN

Keen interest in Indian Air Force activities is shown by a set of young Manipuri school-children forming part of a technical training school close to a forward airfield.

Appreciative of their interest is Pilot Officer R. F. Zaman of the Indian Air Force who comes from Hameedgunge, Lahore, and is acting as assistant adjutant at a forward headquarters. He likes to get the youngsters around him and explain some of the elementary things connected with aircraft.

The school opens at seven o'clock every morning and black-smithing, dyeing, carpentering and basket-making are taught in addition to English reading, writing, geography and kindred subjects. Two hundred boys of all ages attend the school.

ARMY ASSISTANCE TO CIVILIAN POPULATION : IN SOUTH INDIA

LT.-GENERAL SIR NOEL BERESFORD PEIRSE G.O.C.-in-C, Southern Army, in a speech recently in Madras explained the various forms of assistance given by the army to civilian population particularly in the matter of food supplies. He said: In any army fresh food for the troops must come to a great extent from the country where the Army is stationed.

In Southern Army requirements from civil sources are reduced to a minimum by the initiation of Army schemes for growing food.

VEGETABLES

As a result of the development of Army schemes for growing vegetables 75 per cent of the Army (British, Indian and American) vegetable consumption comes from Army sponsored schemes operated for the most part by Provincial and State Governments on the Army's behalf. The Army guarantees to take the crops.

Surpluses will be disposed of in the civil markets, the Army bearing the loss, if any, should the price realized by the sale be less than the price, the Army has paid the cultivator for his produce.

FINANCE

The schemes operate normally as follows :—

The Civil Government and the Army bear an equal share in the overhead charges, which include the pay of extra staff, travelling expenses of agricultural demonstrators, etc. Through the special staff engaged, the Army makes immediate advances to the cultivators for the purchase of seed, manure, etc.

The Army also provides the agricultural staff with a permanent imprest—amounting in one very big scheme to as much as six and a half lakhs to enable cash payments to be made to the producer who has the satisfaction of exchanging his produce for cash. It also, of course, encourages him to bring to the collecting centres the maximum amount of produce.

PRODUCE

One of the most fruitful schemes is that operated by the Agricultural department of the Madras Government for vegetable production in the Nilgiris. The Army is already receiving some 3,000 tons of English vegetables annually from this rapidly expanding scheme.

An increase of the Nilgiris potato production, by the assignment of approximately 4,000 acres of additional land by the Madras Government, has made it possible for the Army to be supplied with potatoes without curtailing civilian requirements in the Presidency.

Other big vegetable-growing schemes are in the development or planning stage in the Madras Province.

Probably the biggest and most valuable scheme in the whole of India is that operated by the Bombay Government in Poona, Nasik and Ahmednagar districts, from which the Army receives as much as 19,000 tons of potatoes and 13,000 tons of vegetables every year. Lesser but extremely useful schemes are in operation in the Eastern Ghats and Vizagapatam and in Hyderabad.

PRICES

The Army guarantees to take produce at rates varying from (per average 100 lb.) potatoes, Rs. 11-8-0 in the Nilgiris to Rs. 15-10-0 in the Poona area. Vegetables Rs. 7-15-6 in Hosur area to Rs. 6-4-0 in the Bombay Presidency.

The rates are fixed between the Army and Civil Governments.

ACREAGE

Now in the production or development stage—		ACS.
Bombay Presidency	..	12,000
Madras Presidency ..	..	6,000
Hyderabad State ..	..	460
Mysore State ..	..	300
Also :		
Under Planning—		
Madras Presidency	..	2,000

The above figures include the large acreage in the Nilgiris assigned to cultivators to cope with the increased demands of the Army for potatoes, and exclude the activities of the Growers' Association, now being established in Mysore, to meet the Army's requirements of vegetables.

TRANSPORT

Whenever possible Military vehicles are made available for the carriage of Civil supplies.

During the past six months the Army has been able to do a considerable amount in this respect.

The following are examples :—

(*a*) Approximately 400 tons carried over distances of 40 to 100 miles by Harihar transport units during November.

(*b*) An emergent carry of 75 tons from Mysore to Bangalore. In this case the convoy was ready within 12 hours of the call.

(*c*) A complete section of 30 vehicles has been in the Nilgiris since last November and has been entirely employed in clearing the potato crop which the hill railway could not cope with. Upwards of 2,000 tons have been moved by this means.

(*d*) In response to a call for assistance in regard to Bengal Relief approximately 400 vehicles were despatched from Secunderabad to Bobbili to carry grain from Jeypore to railhead, a distance of about 80 miles. These vehicles have been carrying in the region of 200 tons of grain a day since the middle of November. Most of the grain was for Bengal but there was also a certain amount which was carried on behalf of the Madras Government.

(*e*) During the recent floods in the Madras area general help was given by both general transport vehicles and unit vehicles in generally assisting the civil population.

(*f*) In response to a call by the authorities, a considerable body of troops with all its vehicles was moved from Southern Army to the Bengal Famine area to assist in the distribution of food grains.

In addition to these major lifts there have been a great number of minor cases where supplies have been carried on behalf of the Civil authorities. Close liaison is for ever kept in order to utilize empty convoys not required for Military purposes.

MEDICAL

Military Medical Officers have instructions to assist civilian doctors wherever their help is needed.

Recall the assistance sent by air to the Indo-Ceylon train smash.

Seven military medical officers including the Assistant Director, Medical Services are doing famine relief work in Bengal.

CHICKEN AND EGG DRIVE

The Army has started an intensive chicken and egg "drive" among static units to lessen demands on the civil markets.

SMOKED FISH

A Madras Government scheme to be operated by the department of Commerce and Industries, will shortly produce 1,000 tons of smoked mackerel, pomfret, sole, etc., for the Army annually.

Depots are to be established at fishing villages on the East and West Coasts, where the fish will be smoked and packed, and despatched to Military Supply Depots.

This industry will, besides making a valuable contribution to the war effort, give employment to hundreds of poor fishermen in Presidency coastal villages.

WAR DIARY

British infantrymen passing through Anzio, Italy, after Allied forces had established and maintained beachheads on the West Coast of Italy.

BRITAIN AND GERMANY

9TH FEB.—Mr. Anthony Eden, Foreign Secretary, announced in the House of Commons that the British Government has made representations to the German and Swiss Governments concerning five British prisoners of war who were reported to have been sentenced to death by the Italian police.

A joint U-boat statement issued by Mr. Churchill and President Roosevelt says, "The year 1944 has opened with a satisfactory first month for the Allies in their continued campaign against the U-boat. The amount of merchantship tonnage sunk by U-boats during January, 1944, is among the lowest monthly figures for the whole war."

Last night Allied aircraft attacked objectives in Germany.

10TH FEB.—Allied heavy bombers attacked Brunswick in Central Germany and destroyed 89 Nazi planes.

It is announced that H.M.S. *Bitea* has sunk two German submarines and attacked five other U-boats.

"Mr. Churchill will make a statement on the war and the international situation, shortly," said Mr. Eden in the Commons.

11TH FEB.—Allied planes bombed Berlin and places in West Germany last night. American Flying Fortresses bombed Frankfurt in daylight.

There was slight enemy activity in South-east England and London area.

12TH FEB.—Mosqutos of the Bomber Command attacked objectives in Central and Western Germany.

Enemy planes bombed places in South-east England and London area.

The King saw battlefit troops, who may be the spearhead when the attack on Hitler's European fortress opens in the west performing their allotted assault tasks. He was accompanied by General Sir B. Montgomery and high staff officers.

13TH FEB.—Aircraft of Bomber Command attacked objectives in Western Germany.

Four German planes were destroyed during slight activity over South-east England including London area.

14TH FEB.—There was enemy air activity over parts of East Anglia and South-east England including London area.

15TH FEB.—Sir James Grigg, War Secretary, answered questions in the House of Commons on Jap atrocities against British prisoners.

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THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND ATLANTIC

9TH FEB.—The United States Vice-President Mr. Henry Wallace urged the pooling of the world's raw materials as a safeguard against future global wars.

The United States ship *Cooper*, a new type of destroyer, was launched to-day.

10TH FEB.—Chairman of the United States Maritime Commission, Admiral Emory S. Land pleaded for the National Service Act before the Senate Military Affairs Committee.

Mr. Huge R. Jackson has been appointed as Deputy Director-General in charge of liaison between U.N.R.R.A. headquarters in Washington and regional offices for Europe and the Far East.

President Roosevelt will broadcast on Saturday afternoon at the presentation of a destroyer escort to the French people.

11TH FEB.—The Senate voted in favour of the scrapping of the Administration's food subsidy programme.

President Roosevelt backed up the United States Government's plan to build up an oil pipeline from the Saudi Arabian fields to the Mediterranean.

President Roosevelt speaking on the occasion of the transfer of the American destroyer escort ship *Senegalais* to the French Navy said that France will soon be liberated.

President Roosevelt informed Mr. Harry L. Hopkins, Adviser to the President, that his son Stephen was killed in action in the Marshall Islands.

13TH FEB.—United States Aircraft production in 1944 will exceed the 1943 record by 40 per cent said Mr. Joseph D. Keenan, Vice-Chairman of the War Production Board.

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INDIA, BURMA AND CEYLON

10TH FEB.—Sir Reginald Dorman Smith, Governor of Burma, addressed the Burma Indian Conference at Simla.

11TH FEB.—Allied forces in Tiddim area occupied a hill feature south-east of Maulbem and the Jap position east of Fort White. Prome and Akyab were bombed.

In the Tidden area, parties of Jap troops in the Fort White area were dispersed by Allied troops. In the Arakan fighting continued.

13TH FEB.—Allied bombers attacked Heho and other places in Burma.

General Stilwell, Commander-in-Chief of United States Forces in India, Burma and China issued a statement on the Allied strategy in the Far East.

Lord Louis Mountbatten has sent a heartening message to troops fighting in the Yagu range.

15TH FEB.—To-day's communiqué from South-East Asia command says that on the night of February 13–14 Japanese troops made an unsuccessful attack on one of the Allied positions north-west of Pantha.

Major-General George E. Stratemenjer, Commander of all U.S.A.A.F. in India and of the Allied Eastern Air Command said: "We will have some armoured freight cars of the air in this theatre very soon."

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RUSSIA AND FINLAND

9TH FEB.—Soviet advance continued on all sectors. They captured Oredezh, Radoly, Ozerevo, Novsie Guzistsi, Moike, Gorsdische, etc.

10TH FEB.—The Red Army has almost surrounded Krivoirog. The Russian troops captured Valyava, Zavadovka, Zemostye, Tolmochevo and other places.

President Kalinin stated at an investiture: "I believe that this year we shall inflict a final blow on the Facist invaders

and will clear the enemy from all territories of the Soviet Union."

11TH FEB.—Soviet forces captured Sheptovka, Tagancha, etc.

It is revealed that there has been an exchange of letters between Mr. Churchill and Marshal Stalin on the Russo-Polish question.

Russian aircraft bombed the Finnish port of Kotka for two hours.

It is rumoured that the signing of a trade agreement between Russia and Bulgaria is expected hourly.

12TH FEB.—The Russians have captured Batetskaya. Red Army troops are fighting on the outskrits of Luga, the important German bastion.

13TH FEB.—Russians captured Luga, the last important German base on Leningrad front and the district centres of Gdov, Polna and Lyady and occupied more than 800 inhabited localities.

Russian air attack on Finnish towns continued.

14TH FEB.—The Soviet drive to Pskov, the gateway to Latvia is in full swing. The Germans are in full flight. Russian forces captured Korsun.

The Finnish statesman M. Paasikivi is believed to have transmitted peace proposals to Moscow.

15TH FEB.—The German advance in the slight wedge they forced north-west of Zvenigorodka has been halted. In the Dnieper Bend the destruction of the remnants of the ten trapped German divisions continues.

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ITALY, AFRICA AND THE MEDITERRANEAN

9TH FEB.—Fierce fighting is reported in and near Cassino. Americans have driven a wedge between Cassino and the German position en route Cassino.

10TH FEB.—Heavy fighting is going on on the flanks of our troops at the Anzio beachheads.

All anti-semitic laws have been deleted from the Italian statute book by a Royal Decree.

11TH FEB.—Allied troops are now hitting back in the Anzio beachhead. Hand-to-hand fighting is raging in Aprilla. Fighting at Cassino continues at high pitch.

Hard fighting continued on both the Fifth Army fronts. On all fronts operations were impeded by rain, snow and sleet.

13TH FEB.—Allies have resumed their attacks against German positions before Cisterna. Very bitter fighting continues inside Cassino. The Allied position is generally satisfactory.

14TH FEB.—British troops of the Eighth Army on the Anzio front have made successful local attacks. American troops on the main Fifth Army front continued to exert pressure in the Cassino area. Patrols were active on both the Fifth and Eighth Army fronts.

15TH FEB.—It is officially announced that one-third of Cassino is in Allied hands.

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VICHY, FREE FRANCE AND OCCUPIED COUNTRIES

9TH FEB.—Military objectives in North France were hit hard by Allied bombers.

10TH FEB.—Allied bombers bombed targets in North France. An air-battle took place near Paris.

Nazi-held fighter-bases of Gilze and Riyen in Holland were also bombed.

11TH FEB.—Air attack on military objectives in North France continued.

12TH FEB.—Allied aircraft bombed German military installations in the Pas de Calais area in occupied France.

A National Council of all parties has been formed in Poland.

13TH FEB.—Allied aircraft continued to pound military objectives in North France.

14TH FEB.—The formation of a Yugoslav democratic and popular union was announced by the Yugoslav Government in Cairo.

15TH FEB.—A communiqué issued by the Polish Government states that the visit to Washington of the Polish Premier, M. Mikolaczyk has been postponed on account of State affairs which requires his presence in London.

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THE NEUTRAL COUNTRIES

11TH FEB.—It is learned that Anglo-Turkish staff talks have been proceeding in Turkey recently. It is understood that the talks have lasted for over five weeks.

Mr. Eden paid tributes to Sir Samuel Hoare who has helped to keep Spain neutral.

12TH FEB.—Bombs were dropped in North Sweden.

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THE FAR EAST

9TH FEB.—Mr. Eden said in the Commons that the approximate number of prisoners of war of the British Commonwealth in Japanese hands was estimated at 140,000.

The aim of American forces in the Pacific was to set up bases in China, said Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, Commander-in-Chief of U.S. Pacific fleet.

10TH FEB.—Rabaul in New Britain was heavily bombed by American bombers. Thirty-four Jap planes were destroyed. Madang and Alexishafen were attacked by Allied aircraft. Enemy bases in Bougainville were also bombed. American troops advancing in the Huon Peninsula are now only 7 miles from the American troops in Saidor area.

Mr. Curtin, the Australian Prime Minister, made a statement on the war situation.

11TH FEB.—Australian forces have joined up with the American forces near Saidor in New Guinea. This completes the occupation of the Huon Peninsula. 14,000 Japs were killed. Allies bombed Alexishafen.

American submarines have sunk 12 more Japanese supply ships in the Far East, it is announced in Washington.

12TH FEB.—Enemy airfields at Rabaul were heavily bombed. Wewak was also attacked.

13TH FEB.—Kawieng in New Guinea was bombed by American bombers. Thirty-two Jap aircraft were destroyed in a raid on Rabaul.

14TH FEB.—It is revealed that Rabaul was bombed for the twelfth time in the past 14 days.

15TH FEB.—Four Japanese ships were sunk and three damaged in an Allied air attack on a convoy off Fuchow. Railway yards and repair shops in Indo-China were also attacked.

Allied forces have occupied Rooke Island in Vitiaz strait between New Britain and New Guenea and Gorissa near Cape Mensing on New Britain. Siai Island off Madang was heavily bombed by the Allied air-craft.

FOR YOUR RADIO DIARY

FEB. 19.—MADRAS—9-45 p.m. "What Next: One World Currency." By Dr. D. W. Dodwell.

„ 21.—BOMBAY—8-45 p.m. "Five Months in Japanese Prison." By Graham Martyr.

„ „ DACCA—8-00 p.m. "Japan Unmasked: Exploitation and Despoliation" By Rev. H. D. Northfield.

„ 22.—PESHAWAR—9-45 p.m. "Facts and Fabrications: Analysis of Axis Broadcasts." By R. B. Dewanchand Chbrai.

„ „ CULCUTTA—9-00 p.m. "War and the Man-in-the-street: Industrial Worker."

„ „ LUCKNOW—9-45 p.m. "This Global War: Review of Current Event of the Month." By S. N. Gosh.

„ 23 MADRAS 8-30 p.m "The Voice of America" Relayed from Delhi.

„ 24 LUCKNOW—9-45 p.m. "Great Little Nations: Yugoslavia." By S. N. Gosh.

„ 25 MADRAS—9-45 p.m. "World Affairs." Talk relayed from the B.B.C.

„ 26 DELHI—8-30 p.m. "Books in War Time: Propagandist Literature." By A. Mac Farquhar

„ „ LAHORE—9-45 p.m. "Yesterday in Chunking." By Victor Kiernan.

„ „ LUCKNOW—9-45 p.m. "Interviewing Japan." By Dr. A. L. Becker.

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